The remaining projects were incomplete and not in accordance with the project guidelines. Central financial assistance is extended for prioritised projects which are submitted in complete shape with due observance of all codal formalities as per guidelines.

Development of tourist spots in Orissa

3351. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the names of tourist spots in Orissa that have so far been treated/ included as Central Tourist Spots for the purpose of planning, development and assistance;

(b) what amenities have been provided or developments undertaken or proposed to be undertaken for the religious pilgrims/tourists visiting Jaipur and Ratnagiri in Orissa;

(c) whether Government have assisted development/cleanliness of Religious Ghats like in Varanasi or Daswasmedh Ghats in Jajpur; and

(d) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to develop and provide amenities for the lakhs of tourists visiting the Daswasmedh Ghat at Jajpur annually and in 12 years periods?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The following places/centres in Orissa have been identified in consultation with the State Govt. as Tourist Centres/Pilgrim Centres/Travel Circuits/Destinations for development of tourism infrastructural facilities:

Tourist Centres:

Bhubaneshwar
Cuttack
Konark
Puri

Pilgrim Centres:

Puri

Travel Circuits:

1. Bhubaneshwar-Puri-Konark
2. Harishankar-Narsinghanath-Hirakud-Sambalipur-Bed Vyas (Gandhamardhan Circuit)
3. Koraput-Araku Valley-Nandapur-Gupteshwar-Rayagada (Panchapat Circuit)
4. Chandipur-Chandaneshwar-Panchalingeshwar-Simplipal Sanctuary-Khiching (Swaranchuda Circuit)
5. Bhubaneshwar-Lalirgiri-Ratnagiri-Udaigiri-Kendrapara-Chandbali-Bhadrak (Sun Temple)

Destinations:

Puri

(b) to (d) Development/maintenance of tourist places/pilgrim centres is primarily undertaken by State Government/U.T Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central financial assistance for tourism projects/ schemes prioritised in consultation with State Governments every year. Central financial assistance of Rs. 276.95 lakhs was sanctioned for 15 tourism infrastructure projects in Orissa during 1999-2000.

Development of Tourism in Bihar

3352. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any action plan to achieve extensive development of tourism in Bihar which has the requisite potential in that regard; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Development of tourism is primarily undertaken by State Governments/U.T. Administrations. Ministry of Torusim provides financial assistance for tourism infrastructure projects prioritised in consultation with State Governments subject to availability of funds. During 1999-2000, Central financial assistance of Rs. 79.71 lakhs was sanctioned for four tourism projects in Bihar.